

**IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of: James S. W. Lee et al.)
Case No.: 200801-9003)
Serial No.: (division of 09/657,020)) Art Unit:
Filed:) Preliminary Amendment
Title: JOINTED SUPPORT SYSTEM AND)
METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING SAME) Examiner:

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of issue fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account No. 50-1965. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany the payment.

Applicant hereby petitions for entry of this Amendment which is mailed within the _____ month after the due date of _____. Enclosed is check No. ____, dated ____, in the amount of \$_____, as payment of the necessary Petition fee.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL

No. EL 874049263 US

Date of Deposit: November 6, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. The person mailing this paper/fee is:

PRINT: David Bermejo

Signature: David Bermejo

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Prior to calculating the filing fee and examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 4, before the title "Field of the Invention," please insert the following as the first paragraph of the specification in the above-identified application:

--This application is a division of application Ser. No. 09/657,020, filed September 7, 2000, pending. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 and 16-42 without prejudice.

REMARKS

In the August 23, 2001 Office Action issued in the prosecution of pending application Ser. No. 09/657,020, applicants were required to restrict the prosecution of said application to certain elected subject matter. Applicants are filing this divisional application to pursue patent coverage of the non-elected subject matter designated as Group III in the August 23, 2001 Office Action.

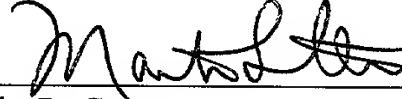
In the August 23, 2001 Office Action, Examiner John Ricci classified the invention claimed in this divisional application in class 249, subclass 98. The original application Ser. No. 09/657,020 on which this divisional application is based is believed to be with Examiner Ricci. A response to the August 23, 2001 Office Action in the original application electing the claims of Group IV was filed on November 1, 2001.

Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC

Dated: 11/6/01

By: 

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